March 12, 1989

Dear Mom,

It was very nice to get your card and note yesterday. I do appreciate your thoughts, worries, and prayers.

I'm so pleased to have renewed energy, and appetite. I've put 12 pounds back on, and everyone tells me that I look good. Even on the phone people can hear the energy in my voice. My chest X-ray that I had done 2 weeks ago was the best in months. Some of my lab studies are improved—red count, white count, hemoglobin, and hematocrit all improved. However, my T-cell count and T-cell ratio are still deplorable.

With all this improvement, I'm getting a lot more work done for the Archives, and that makes me happy. I'm planning an art auction to benefit the Archives in May and that uses up a lot of my energies. As we get closer to that date, I'll become more swallowed up by that. I plan to have $25,000 dollars worth of art available for auction. I've never produced an event this large before, and I'm really kind of scared. Several very good people, with more experience than me, have agreed to assist me. If nothing else, it should be a giant learning experience.

Further, I have accepted an appointment to the Advisory Board of the San Diego Walks For Life organization that produces our annual AIDS walkathon. I was a bit hesitant to take the position until the producer stated that he understood that I might have limited energy from time to time, but he wanted my name on the stationery to bring credibility and integrity to the organization. So we'll see how it goes. Our target for the Walk this year is $200,000.

I have also started taking speaking engagements for the San Diego AIDS Project —no more than one a week. So far I've spoken to two high school groups in north San Diego County. As an RN, a person with AIDS, and an articulate speaker, my services are very much in demand. It's very nice to be wanted and I enjoy the experiences very much.

For the first time in about two years, I've returned to gardening—another great joy. We haven't had much winter here this year (and very little rain) so with all the warmth the urge to get my hands into the soil is very strong. The fact that I am even willing to start a time-and-energy-consuming task that will last all summer, indicates the level of my confidence in my continued well-being. And isn't that exciting!? So today I planted begonia and dahlia tubers—some in hanging basket, some in pots on the porch, and some in the ground under my kitchen window. The begonias should do well in that shaded space. Tomorrow I will set out some impatiens and cosmos from pony packs. Later this week I plan to remove an old unsatisfying rose bush and put a couple new ones in. The glads are already six inches high in some places. So, I'm looking forward to a colorful season.

My relationship with Mike Killian continues to be very rewarding. We had brunch today at a restaurant and enjoyed it immensely. But the best part is always when we get to his place or mine and have some "cuddle time" on the couch, great conversation, or just quiet togetherness. So, you see, I have many reasons to be very happy.

Short notes: Freddy is reportedly doing better. Enclosed is a cut-and-pasted article on Morris Kight (as I prepared it for inclusion in "The Morris Kight file" of the Lesbian/Gay Archives of San Diego.) Hope you enjoy it.

Must run. All my love to you.

Bob